

Stone Harbor Museum News

Spring 2015 Newsletter

235 93rd Street Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

609-368-7500

www.stoneharbormuseum.org

info@stoneharbormuseum.org



Why a Museum?

Museums seem to be everywhere and dedicated to all things imaginable. One needs only to look at the table of interests found under the name Smithsonian to realize that a smorgasbord of artifacts, fine art, fossils, natural history, and mechanicals both stationary and movable abound in collections, some, thirty miles apart. (Let's not forget the Inaugural Ball collection of First Ladies' dresses)

In contrast, The Stone Harbor Museum is basically an archival museum. Over the 100 year history of the town, it seems that letters, photographs and post cards along with written commentaries basically told the Stone Harbor story. The town really didn't make industrial items and there are few, if any, "Made in Stone Harbor" relics. The last one hundred years saw people come to Stone Harbor for the same reason they come today - the sand and the ocean and bays. People come for a week or a fortnight to get away and relax. Part of that relaxation is to spend some time looking at old pictures and reading about the life of Stone Harbor. That happens in the museum. The museum, like many, is staffed with volunteers. A commodity that is rapidly disappearing - everywhere! A cause for concern.

In a recent article in March/April 2015 Yankee magazine, Howard Mansfield regarding museum house tours said, "It can't be tightly paced as a 12-part cable-TV drama queued up for binge watching. It can't dash click-by-click to match your whim. Not long ago, historical memory was New England's great story to tell a nation hungry for history. Back in that pre-digital era you didn't have to promise visitors the sun, moon and stars to get them in the door. But now, what's a small museum to do?" In the same article, Michelle Stahl, director of the Monadnock Center for History and Culture in Peterborough, New Hampshire noted that "people want their buttons pushed all the time. There's no room for stepping back and being quiet."

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "The Past will not sleep, it works still. With every new fact a ray of light shoots up from the long buried years."

Our museum in Stone Harbor is there to "shoot those rays of light" that are buried in our town's past for those who want to search it out rather than be entertained. You are most certainly welcome in the Stone Harbor Museum to see and search.

Rand Bauer, *Vice President*

Quotes taken from the March/April 2015 issue of Yankee magazine article "The Memory Keepers" - Can New England's small museums survive the nation's short attention span?" Text by Howard Mansfield.

New Trustees

Due to Vince LaManna and Linda Picanza resigning and the passing of Virginia Maslin, three vacancies existed on the board. These were filled by Bob Levins, Martin Lukacs, and Kathy Schoenberger.

Bob Levins is a retired Police Inspector from the Philadelphia Police Force and now is self-employed looking after properties in the off-season. He and his wife Helen live in a vintage Stone Harbor home built in 1912. Bob has been a museum docent for the past four years and is looking forward to increased involvement as a member of the board.

Retired dentist, Martin "Marty" Lukacs served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force in Germany from 1972-1975. He retired from the New Jersey Air National Guard in 1996 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Marty has served on the Board of Directors for Magyar Savings Bank, Delta Care Flagship Health Systems, and the Milltown Public Library. Currently the Membership Chair for the American Legion, he and his wife Mary have been enjoying Stone Harbor for many years.

Former teacher, Kathy Schoenberger finished her career in the Stone Harbor School District. She and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Glenn Schoenberger, moved to Stone Harbor in 1983 when he became pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. Kathy's interest in serving on the board stems from her family history -Kathy's mother, Janet Whiteside, enjoyed summering on 83rd St. in the 1920s and her great uncle, H. Irvin Gerhart, served two terms as mayor in the 1930s.

President's Corner

Despite our chronic growing pains, the Summer Season ahead will be an exciting one. We now have a professional to direct us, an increase in our Volunteer Staff, and new programs for the community being scheduled. We plan to have an entertaining and educational program each month. Along with other Cape May County organizations the U.S. Coast Guard will be honored this summer.

There continues to be a great deal of interest in the future location of the museum. A look back at the history shows that the present location was selected because the Board of Education was planning to vacate the site at the time the Archival Committee was searching for a home. A serendipitous coincidence. A mere five years later, the museum's Long Range Plan included the need for larger quarters; other than size, the type of building was not specified. In 2008, when the new library building was to be situated on the beach and the museum was to be housed there, the quarters

were to be state-of-the-art with built-in digital capabilities. The décor featured mirrors and metal. Then came the Pebbles dream which ended when an inspection required improvements too costly to consider. Even with those improvements, the museum would be faced with some of the shortcomings of the present cottage.

Now, there is the possibility, very "iffy", that the museum could become part of Borough Hall if the Police Department were to move to a new building. That location, would provide a new home for the museum in an older building but with modern, more cost efficient utilities. Another dream!

Have a beautiful Summer and plan to visit us when you're in town!

Terrie Cwik, *President*

The New Director Writes...

Since being hired in November, I have been cataloging the museum collection into a software program called Past Perfect. I am also working on creating new exhibits and displays and would like to take this opportunity to ask if you have any photos or memorabilia about Stone Harbor that you would like to share with the community. These objects could be loaned to the museum for a few months and returned to the owner after they have been enjoyed by museum visitors.

The museum is the keeper of the history. It ties the community together. Some ask why a history museum is needed. My reply to this question is: "Do you know what was here before the big mansions, or better yet, when the only inhabitants were wild cows and other animals? Do you know where you could find the highest dunes in New Jersey? Did you know that from our coast you could witness Revolutionary War sea battles?"

The "need" of a museum is to gather all these facts, all these archival materials, and make them available for all to discover and enjoy.

Bruce Tell, *Director*

New Hours

The museum will be open June 15th until September 12th. The hours will be Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Museum Staff

Director Bruce Tell
President Terrie Cwik
Vice President Rand Bauer
Secretary Margaret Leisenring
Treasurer Patty Stump
Borough Council Liaison Al Carusi

Trustees:

*Bob Ashman, Paul Hughes, Bob Levins,
Marty Lukacs, Kathy Schoenberger,
Lou Schweickhardt, Jim Talone*

Committee Chairs:

*Bob Ashman- Finance and Communications
Elaine Heil - Acquisitions
Sari Bauer- Acquisitions Committee Member
Margaret Leisenring- Archival
Terrie Cwik, Mary Lukacs-
Archival Committee Members*

*Linda Picanza- Gift Shop
Bob Levins- Facilities
Bill Stump- Membership and Maritime Annex
Jim Talone- Videographer
Jim Wren- Maritime Annex Co-Chair
Newsletter Editor- Heather Burns*

Stone Harbor Vintage Homes Recognition

The Stone Harbor Vintage Homes project has been enthusiastically received. As of this writing, more than 36 home owners have purchased plaques. Application information, including criteria for inclusion, can be found on the museum website. The list below is taken from a self-guided walking tour of the vintage homes being compiled

<u>Address</u>	<u>Date Circa</u>	<u>Name of Owner(s)</u>
230 84th St	To Be Determined	Kathy O'Dea
8315 Sunset	1910	Bob & Dorothy Harris
8514 Pennsylvania Ave	1090	Joe & Marg Moran
169 86th St	1908	Greg & Suzanne Williams
173 86th St	1917	Len Trainor
8807 First Ave	1934	Sharon Jones
249 88th St	1912	Bob & Helen Levins
272 88th St	1914	Joe & Nancy Pegues
326 89th St	1911	Jim & Janice Murdough
9101 Second Ave	1916	Chris & Tiffany Hale
281 92nd St	1914	Bob & Joanne Falese
382 92nd St	1905	Tom & Pam Allingham
155 93rd St	1916	Matt & Allyson Flannery
235 93rd St	1916	Stone Harbor Museum
9212 Third Ave	1914	Our Saviour Lutheran Church
353 93rd St	1913	Jonathan & Monica LaKose
362 93rd St	1911	Cynthia McGrath
394 93rd St	1917	Chris Brown
234 94th St	1912	Julie Voris-Soga
147 94th St	1910	Bill & Charlotte Lansinger
371 95th St	1916	Bill & Patty Stump
9621 Second Ave	1934	Terry & Maryellen Doyle
322 99th St	1922	Bob & Joanne Falese
9906 Corinthian Dr	1950	Terrie Cwik
10020 Corinthian Dr	1916	Bob Murray
10019 Sunrise Dr	1915	Mark & Lucy Rhodes
418 Berkley St	1914	Tim & Carol LaPorte
135 101st St	1914	Anne Baxter
328 101st St	1916	Keith & Pam Pensabene
122 102nd St	1920	Ted & Cissy Ramsey
10707 Corinthian Dr	1929	Bob & Carolyn Herd-Robertson
138 106th St	1918	Joe Jones
10711 Sunset Dr	1920	Wayne & Sue Conrad
54 Bauer Court	1912	Kristin Long
223 108th St	1938	Elaine & Carolyn Heil
10904 Second Ave	1954	Bob & Vicki Bartke
111-113th Sts (Beach block)	1937	IHM Order-Villa Maria By The Sea
117th St & Second Ave	1895	American Legion Post 331

In Memoriam

In the past few months, the museum and Stone Harbor have had to say goodbye to some dear friends: Azalea Ellis, Dede Harris, Virginia Maslin, and Stan Moore.

Azalea was a dedicated docent from the first time the museum opened its doors. She was also the interviewer for many of the oral histories the museum has compiled. Last summer, Azalea was awarded a plaque in recognition of her dedication.

DeDe was an enthusiastic museum member and supporter. She created the list of Stone Harbor trivia questions used in the impromptu contests at the centennial concerts. Dede was also the subject of an oral history.

Although her term as a docent and board member was brief, Virginia's presence remains with us through her photography and the museum events she visually captured.

Stan Moore helped with the opening of the museum. He spent many hours cleaning, painting, and straightening to get the building ready to receive visitors.

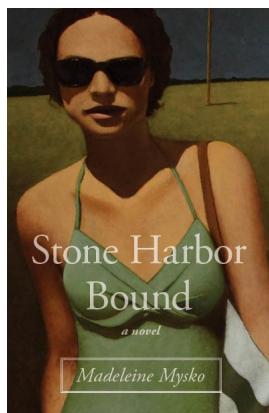
These individuals will continue to live on in the memories they have given to the museum.

Stone Harbor Bound

The museum will be presenting a reading and book signing by author Madeleine Mysko from her second novel, *Stone Harbor Bound*, Wednesday evening, July 1st at 7 p.m. The event will be held at the American Legion. The book will be available for purchase at the museum gift shop.

The story revolves around a woman recovering from the death of her partner and travelling to Stone Harbor to decide what to do with the bungalow she inherited. While there her life becomes entangled with that of a nearby family.

The author has been coming to Stone Harbor for more than 15 years, having been introduced to the area by her husband. While vacationing during the summer months, she worked on the novel. Mysko spent many hours in the museum researching for her story and has called the museum a "goldmine."



Mysko is a registered nurse and was a member of the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War. Her first novel, *Bringing Home Vincent*, reflects her experiences at the Burn Ward at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio while in the corps. She is a graduate of the Writing Seminars of The Johns Hopkins University and a teacher of creative writing in the Baltimore-Washington area.

Acquisitions 2014

The following items were added to the museum's collection in 2014. We are very grateful to the owners for their donations.

Item	Donated by
"Daffodils" painting by Gracine McMenamy	Carol Weimer
Aerial photo of Stone Harbor Yacht Club	Charlotte Lansinger
4 maps and a building permit	Daniel Shiavo
2 ice picks	E.R. Gerhart
73 black and white photos of Stone Harbor	Thomas D. Moran
Monopoly Game	Linda J. Adams
Fire Co. mug and plate	Theresa Bozzi
2 Stone Harbor Anniversary tiles, Henny's ashtray, round water tower painting, pewter plate, 2 ceramic plates, 4 beer mugs, biscuit jar, calendar, 2 Burdette Tomlin booklets	Rebecca R. Henry (Estate of Agnes Robinson)
5 aerial photos of Stone Harbor During the late 1950's	Robert A. Lee
3 vintage postcards	Jane DiGioia
DVD- "Museum Shots"	Jim Talone (2015)